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To: R3 EVERYONE [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c2ae8e7c98b4f2d840d71397fb41a12-R3 EVERYONE]; Kline, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a8bbc09f033b45c29be5e2ce790e2637-Kline, James]; Gold, Anne [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f9ff091960ae4baaada2746c9e2af1c5-Gold, Anne]; Vowell, Natalie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c04ce9c2c004419e87c3452f1604b330-Vowell, Natalie]; Johnson, Larry-C [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=62231ebaf03e48eab17bda1373bf3d55-Ljohns05]
Subject: EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - Tuesday, November 22, 2016

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

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***** DAILY HOT LIST *****

Trump has a plan for government workers. They're not going to like it

WASHINGTON POST President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are drawing up plans to take on the government bureaucracy they have long railed against, by eroding job protections and grinding down benefits that federal workers have received for a generation. Hiring freezes, an end to automatic raises, a green light to fire poor performers, a ban on union business on the government's dime and less generous pensions — these are the contours of the blueprint emerging under Republican control of Washington in January. These changes were once unthinkable to federal employees, their unions and their supporters in Congress. But Trump's election as an outsider promising to shake up a system he told voters is awash in "waste, fraud and abuse" has conservatives optimistic that they could do now what Republicans have been unable to do in the 133 years since the modern civil service was created. "You have the country moving to the right and being much more anti-Washington than it was," said former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), a leading Trump adviser who serves on the president-elect's transition team. "We're going to have to get the country to understand how big the problem is, the human costs of it and why it's absolutely essential to reform," said Gingrich, who urged Trump to shrink big government and overhaul the "job-for-life" guarantee of federal work. Gingrich predicted that Stephen K. Bannon, a former Breitbart News chief who helped steer Trump's campaign and is now one of his most influential advisers, would lead the effort. "It's a big, big project," he said. The project aligns with Bannon's long-stated warnings about the corrupting influence of government and a capital city rampant with "crony capitalism."

EPA chief: Trump can't halt US shift to clean energy

WASHINGTON POST The head of the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday gave an impassioned defense of the Obama administration's energy and environmental policies and insisted the nation's shift from fossil fuels will continue no matter who occupies the White House. "The inevitability of our clean energy future is bigger than any one person or one nation," Administrator Gina McCarthy said in a speech at the National Press Club that was twice interrupted by protesters. "It must be guided by a simple but profound truth: We don't have to choose between economy or environment. We can and we must choose both." McCarthy mostly deflected specific questions about worries over President-elect Donald Trump, who has been a blistering critic of the EPA. Trump has vowed to scrap what he sees as onerous regulations the agency has put in place in recent years, from tighter methane controls on domestic

drillers to the administration's signature effort to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants. He also has vowed to end the "war on coal," expand oil and gas leasing across federal lands and waters, and "cancel" U.S. participation in an international climate agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions. But McCarthy, a Boston native who became the EPA head in 2013 after a lengthy confirmation fight, repeatedly suggested that trying to slow the country's move away from coal and other fossil fuels and toward cleaner energy sources ultimately would be foolish and futile. "Science tells us that there is no bigger threat to American progress and prosperity than the threat of global climate change," she said. "And if you take nothing else from my speech today, take this: The train to a global, clean-energy future has already left the station. We have a choice. We can choose to get on board, to lead. Or we can choose to be left behind."

New methane rules coming for Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania regulators are soon planning to introduce new regulations to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, despite expectations President-Elect Donald Trump may seek to roll back new federal rules. Methane is the main component of natural gas and a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global climate change. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expected to unveil new general permit requirements for Marcellus Shale well pads at a meeting of its Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee on December 8th. A broader regulatory package, designed to curb methane leaks from existing sources, is expected in early 2017. "A lot of these issues now revert to the states to take action," says Matthew Stepp, policy director for the environmental advocacy group, PennFuture. "The environmental community is rightly concerned at the federal government reversing course." A bill introduced last summer in the state Senate aims to prevent the DEP from creating new methane regulations that would be more stringent than those put forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Stepp expects the measure will come up again next session, but thinks it could become a moot point if there is a reversal of federal policy under Trump. Whether that bill moves forward or not, Stepp anticipates the state's new methane rules will be vigorously challenged. He points to the bitter fight this year between Governor Tom Wolf's Democratic administration and the GOP-led legislature over new drilling regulations.

Md. seeks to increase air monitoring near Wagner power plant after residents express concerns

BALTIMORE SUN Responding to residents worried that the air near their homes isn't safe to breathe, Maryland environment officials say they hope to install an air-quality monitor near a coal power plant in Anne Arundel County. The Maryland Department of the Environment is exploring whether the federal government or the owner of the H.A. Wagner Generating Station can pay for the equipment, the agency's secretary wrote Monday in a letter to the Greater Pasadena Council. Some Pasadena residents became alarmed last summer when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said conditions around the plant over the past three years did not meet a federal standard for sulfur dioxide pollution. The EPA required the state and plant owner to collaborate on a plan to clean the emissions. Gov. Larry Hogan's administration had challenged the finding, saying the state's models suggest the air is meeting federal pollution standards... Grumbles wrote that the state is focused on working with the plant to ensure it's in compliance, but added that installing a monitor to gather more precise data is worthwhile. The Department recognizes the fact that residents of Pasadena and elsewhere would want an absolute assurance that air quality is not harmful to their health," he wrote. He said the state is working with the EPA to determine if some of the several million dollars in federal money allocated to local air quality research could go toward the Wagner monitoring equipment, or if other federal money is available... EPA officials already advised the Pasadena group it was up to the state whether to install a monitor. "We supply [states] funding every year that they can use specifically for monitoring," EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said. "It's up to them to decide where they want to do that monitoring."

Climate scientists, Chesapeake Bay experts look to future with Trump presidency

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS (Nov. 20) Drowned neighborhoods, meaner hurricanes, shifting shorelines, the Atlantic lapping at the front door — Hampton Roads knows more than most what climate change bodes

for coastal communities. Now local scientists who study the changing climate and its long-term impacts on the Chesapeake Bay region say they're worried about what a Donald Trump administration might bode for the area — and the Earth — as well. Trump has tweeted that climate change is a "hoax" perpetrated by the Chinese, and vowed to pull the U.S. out of last year's landmark Paris Agreement in which 190 countries agreed to cut carbon emissions and to abandon President Barack Obama's domestic Clean Power Plan. He also pledged to power up the country's fossil fuel industries, which scientists fear could trigger even greater greenhouse gas emissions and jeopardize any chance of keeping global warming below what climate models show is a tipping point toward catastrophe. Randy Chambers, head of the Keck Environmental Lab at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, has seen environmental protections ebb and flow from one administration to the next for decades. "It's a shame that things that are scientifically important — and ought to be important to society as well — shift so dramatically with these political elections." John Fredericks, conservative talk radio show host and chairman of Trump's campaign in Virginia, believes Trump's energy ambitions won't come at the expense of the environment. "If you look at climate change right now, there's no question that everybody has to have environmental concerns," Fredericks said. "There's only one Earth."

Editorial: Trump's plans have green advocates seeing red

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT (Nov. 21) THE WORRY is palpable in America's environmental community. It's evident across sectors where federal regulation has made a meaningful difference in clean water and air and, by extension, in the United States' leadership on global warming and sea level rise. Much of it surrounds President-elect Donald Trump's selection of Myron Ebell, a climate change skeptic, as the head of his transition team on environmental policy. Ebell is the director of the conservative Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center on Energy and the Environment. According to CEI's website, Ebell also "chairs the Cooler Heads Coalition, which comprises over two dozen nonprofit groups in this country and abroad that question global warming alarmism and oppose energy rationing policies." That puts Ebell and his coalition well at odds with the scientific and international consensus on climate change, which represents one of the most significant long-term threats to Hampton Roads. According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, done in 2013, places like Hampton Roads are on course to see more than a 3-foot rise in sea levels by 2100. Recent research on ice sheets, sea-level trajectory and ocean dynamics have suggested the increase could be double that, with obviously devastating consequences. Much of the current sea level rise is thanks to warmer global temperatures caused by the release of greenhouse gases from burning coal and gas, and from massive deforestation in South America and Africa. Almost all climate scientists agree both on the mechanism for a warming planet and its general trajectory... Since so much of the progress on the environment in the past decade was won in the courts — rather than in the White House or in Congress — Trump's ability to reverse them may be further hindered by the separation of powers. But an informed and active citizenry, not simply the willingness of environmental groups to watch every move carefully, will be critical in the fight against environmental reversal, whether in the courts or elsewhere.

Editorial - How will Trump's election affect Virginia?

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH Virginians don't yet know precisely how the election of Donald Trump will affect the commonwealth. But the president-elect will set a markedly different course from that of the Obama administration, and its broad strokes are clear enough to give at least a rough idea... **ENVIRONMENT.** Trump's dismissal of climate-change concerns, his professed hostility to regulation, and his promises about restoring the coal industry could produce marked shifts in the state. Rolling back the Clean Power Plan could give coal-fired electricity generation a temporary reprieve from extinction, but it will not reduce the threat to coal from the growth of natural gas — growth Trump has indicated he would like to accelerate. The new administration's stance on energy is likely to improve the regulatory landscape for projects such as the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and reduce federal support for green-energy projects such as wind and solar farms. Washington also is less likely to put much effort into compacts aimed at preventing overfishing or improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, or hardening coastal areas against sea-level rise. That could produce short-term benefits for some constituencies, such as farmers and watermen; it could make certain problems even harder to solve in the long run. It's an ill wind that blows no man any good, as the maxim has it, and a Trump administration will redound to the benefit of some Virginians in numerous ways — just as it will redound to the detriment of others. The state's political leaders should do what they can to keep as many checkmarks in the plus column as they can, without descending into an excess of parochialism at the expense of national well-being. Changes in defense spending, for instance, should be made to improve national security, not to

boost employment numbers in a given region. The nation needs a healthy Virginia — and vice versa.

Commentary: Reform EPA, don't destroy it

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER The 2016 elections put Republicans in charge of the White House and both houses of Congress, giving them a unique opportunity to reshape policy pertaining to environmental protection, energy, and climate change. Consequently, the Environmental Protection Agency will, no doubt, be at the center of what are likely to be some very contentious debates. Conservatives have long criticized EPA actions, most recently its Clean Power Plan, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a gradual shift from coal-fired power plants to cleaner energy sources, such as natural gas. Other EPA decisions on vehicle fuel-economy standards and improvements in air, surface water, and drinking water quality also have raised industry hackles and prompted critics to assert regulatory overreach even when these decisions were essential to protect public health. How, then, should Republicans use their new political clout over the EPA and environmental laws? There are two ways they can go about their business. One is to follow Ronald Reagan's approach and attempt wholesale deregulation and dismantling of programs, budgets, and staffs, which is favored by some. This is a highly risky strategy because, as happened with Reagan, it could easily prompt a loud public outcry and be reversed under public pressure... A second way to act holds a greater promise of long-term success. This is based on a realistic understanding of the problems we face, grounded in solid science and economics. It would pursue broadly backed and much needed statutory and administrative reforms. The American public has told us for years that it wants to see more bipartisan and cooperative legislative solutions rather than the polarization, animosity, and policy gridlock that have dominated Congress in recent years.

Commentary: EPA needs new director, approach

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has grown into a leviathan, expanding its authority far beyond the restrictions established by law and extending its activities to issues best left to the states. Indeed, the EPA has become one of the most powerful agencies in our government, limiting economic growth and people's use of their property with little legislative oversight. President-elect Trump was right when he said, "Overregulation presents one of the greatest barriers to entry into markets and one of the greatest costs to businesses that are trying to stay competitive." EPA regulations cost the nation's economy trillions of dollars each year. And, with rare exceptions, EPA regulations implemented after the agency's first decade have failed to improve the environment. That has occurred because the science used to support the thousands of new regulations is generally without merit. EPA hires pseudo-scientists to support any directive it chooses, continuously stifling the U.S. economy at the behest of radical environmental lobbyists, who largely control the agency. Current EPA administrator Gina McCarthy exemplifies the agency's disturbed culture. McCarthy is an explicit climate warrior who has claimed, "Climate change is the greatest threat of our time, and the time for action is now." In light of that belief, McCarthy explicitly stated her intention to act as an environmental dictator: "I will tell you that I didn't go to Washington to sit around and wait for congressional action. Never done that before, and don't plan to in the future."...

PENNSYLVANIA

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PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Editorial: Climate collision: The Paris accord will be the first flashpoint Climate change is likely to be the first issue where U.S. policy, under Trump, will collide with the international community.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Collier author writes young adult book with Marcellus Shale focus In a roundabout way, Gail Neustadt's husband's early-onset Alzheimer's led the first-time author to write an allegory about fracking – a book starring a skunk named Sebastian aimed at a young adult audience. Neustadt, of Collier, wrote “Sebastian's Tale” (under the pen name Dylan Weiss) over the past nine years. She wanted to find a way to connect what she views as the dangers of Marcellus Shale fracking to younger readers. “I really think it should be debated, and young people need to be aware of the environmental risks,” Neustadt said. The backstory for the book began about nine years ago. Neustadt has spent 30 years as a speech language pathologist specializing in geriatrics and develops communication programs for people suffering from dementia. She was trying to help her then 3-year-old grandson, Joey, connect with her husband, David, whose health had gone downhill. “He had never known grandpa when he was healthy,” she says. David was then in the end stages of Alzheimer's, and it was difficult for the child to communicate with him. So she tried using stories Joey was familiar with, like Eeyore from “Winnie the Pooh,” to help explain how some of her husband's behaviors were not reasons to be afraid of him. The strategy worked, and helped Joey to not be afraid around his grandfather. After David died, Neustadt decided she wanted to recreate that ability to connect a small child with a larger concept through animal stories, and began writing “Sebastian's Tale.”

Prison aware of Legionella in water Three months before SCI-Pittsburgh's medical director died from what was apparently Legionnaires' disease, corrections officials learned the North Side prison had a Legionella problem, according to heavily redacted records the Department of Corrections released in response to a Tribune-Review Right-to-Know request. A May 12 report on a May 4 sample showed that the No. 1 water cooling tower, which served the prison's medical department, had a concentration of 430 colony forming units per milliliter of Legionella bacteria. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends that any water cooling that has 100 cfu/ml or more undergo a cleaning and biocide treatment. People can contract Legionnaires' disease by inhaling water droplets tainted by the bacteria. It often happens while taking a shower or drinking from a water fountain. An Aug. 12 report said the cooling tower was cleaned, but an email Sept. 1 by Robert McSurdy,

chief of the department's safety and environmental protection division, contradicts that. "The original report of the cooling tower being drained and cleaned was inaccurate," McSurdy wrote. "Therefore, a super chlorination will occur to eliminate the Legionella bacteria growth in the cooling tower." The department has no comment on the details revealed in the documents, spokeswoman Amy Worden said...

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

New methane rules coming for Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry Pennsylvania regulators are soon planning to introduce new regulations to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, despite expectations President-Elect Donald Trump may seek to roll back new federal rules. Methane is the main component of natural gas and a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global climate change. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expected to unveil new general permit requirements for Marcellus Shale well pads at a meeting of its Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee on December 8th. A broader regulatory package, designed to curb methane leaks from existing sources, is expected in early 2017. "A lot of these issues now revert to the states to take action," says Matthew Stepp, policy director for the environmental advocacy group, PennFuture. "The environmental community is rightly concerned at the federal government reversing course." A bill introduced last summer in the state Senate aims to prevent the DEP from creating new methane regulations that would be more stringent than those put forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Stepp expects the measure will come up again next session, but thinks it could become a moot point if there is a reversal of federal policy under Trump. Whether that bill moves forward or not, Stepp anticipates the state's new methane rules will be vigorously challenged. He points to the bitter fight this year between Governor Tom Wolf's Democratic administration and the GOP-led legislature over new drilling regulations.

WHYY NEWSWORKS PHILADELPHIA

No fast track to expanding passenger rail in Western Pennsylvania Lewistown, Pennsylvania, sits halfway between State College and Harrisburg, nestled in the Seven Mountains. To get to Lewistown, you can drive in on Route 322, a twisty, turny, two-lane highway, where the speed limit for trucks is 20 miles per hour. Or, you can take Amtrak and enjoy old-timey Lewistown Station, the first building built by the Pennsylvania Railroad, back in 1849. Today, it's a one-room waiting area staffed by volunteers who sell sodas out of a mini-fridge and Pennsylvania Railroad memorabilia off the walls. Bob Billett is one of those volunteers. If his Amtrak t-shirt and Amtrak baseball hat don't send a clear enough message, Billett proudly calls himself a "railfan," someone who watches and studies trains for fun. One of his unofficial duties as a volunteer is sharing that history with waiting passengers. "I tell people back in the day of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at one point, they had 40 passenger trains a day through here," said Billett over the crackle of the scanner. "People don't believe that, but it's true."

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

PECO natural gas customers can save even more with PECO Smart Ideas As temperatures begin to dip, more than 511,000 PECO customers will turn to natural gas to safely and efficiently heat their homes and businesses. While customers will use more natural gas during the winter heating season, this domestic energy resource continues to be an affordable option for our customers. About 88 percent of PECO's natural gas supply is purchased from the Marcellus Shale region, helping to support Pennsylvania's economy. In addition, abundant supplies continue to keep prices low, with PECO natural gas customers paying the lowest price for natural gas in 15 years. Current customers can save even more with a variety of rebates for installing energy efficient natural gas heating equipment through PECO Smart Ideas.

Crews Battle Mountain Fire In Reading Crews are battling a large mountain fire on Mount Penn in Reading, according to a Reading Eagle [report](#). Numerous fire companies have responded to the forest fire that broke out behind Reading High School along North 13th Street at about 6:15 p.m. Monday, according to the report. Crews are fighting the blaze from the high school and the fire tower along Skyline Drive. Skyline Drive has been shut down at List Road, the report said. No evacuations had been ordered as of 8:45 p.m., as the fire crossed what is called the Bridal Path Trail, according to the report. The fire reportedly was visible from as far away as Mohnton.

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Wind may be to blame for derailing freight cars on Susquehanna River bridge in Perry County Heavy winds may be to blame for a train derailing Monday on a Susquehanna River bridge in Perry County. The last four cars on a westbound

Norfolk Southern freight train out of Harrisburg left the rails at 6:11 a.m., according to a statement issued by company spokesman David Pidgeon. The accident occurred on the Rockville Bridge near Marysville. No one was injured...

SCRANTON TIMES TRIBUNE

Another Leachate Spill At Keystone Landfill Probed State regulators are investigating another leachate spill at Keystone Sanitary Landfill. Keystone reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection that staff discovered leachate leaking from a cracked flange on a pipe into an area leading to a stormwater ditch north of the wastewater treatment plant on Oct. 1. The DEP provided information about the latest incident at the Dunmore and Throop facility in response to follow-up questions The Times-Tribune asked about three different leachate-related violations for which the agency cited the landfill earlier this month. Leachate is created when water is exposed to trash. The operation's handling of the substance is among the top concerns of Friends of Lackawanna, which opposes the landfill's 44.6-year expansion plan. "The October overflow incident at Keystone is still under investigation," agency spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said. "At this time, the department is not able to say if (a notice of violation) will be issued to Keystone for that incident. We have to wait until the investigation is complete." In the October incident, Keystone estimated 10,295 gallons of leachate leaked, with 7,019 gallons beyond the dry well's capacity spilling. "Having recovered several loads with the vacuum trucks, we believe very little effluent was lost," Keystone officials wrote to the DEP in an incident report. "We will be sampling the groundwater monitoring wells for the next several weeks and report the findings to the department." Landfill consultant Al Magnotta said Monday that the leachate was treated, did not reach stormwater drainage areas that lead to Eddy Creek and at worst, the effluent could work its way into an underground mine channel isolated from the public water after many years

YORK DISPATCH

York Suburban students work with trout There are hundreds of fish in the sea. In a York Suburban Middle School science class, though, there are exactly 153 fish in the aquarium, and they're all trout. Seventh-grade science teacher Kathleen Green applied for a grant through the York Suburban Education Foundation (YSEF) to participate in the Trout in the Classroom program. With the successful grant came a large aquarium, a cooling system, chemistry sets to check the water and 153 trout. Students will spend the year observing the trout as they grow and caring for them before ultimately releasing them back into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The class has partnered with the state Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited so they could learn about the importance of the watershed. Students spent their first day with the trout on Nov. 18, but they've been preparing for quite some time now. In the weeks leading up to the program, students researched trout and the Chesapeake Bay watershed as their first unit, Green said. On Friday students were able to check the aquarium's temperature, water acidity and other chemical levels and make sure that all 153 trout were still alive.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

EPA chief: Trump can't halt US shift to clean energy The head of the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday gave an impassioned defense of the Obama administration's energy and environmental policies and insisted the nation's shift from fossil fuels will continue no matter who occupies the White House. "The inevitability of our clean energy future is bigger than any one person or one nation," Administrator Gina McCarthy said in a speech at the National Press Club that was twice interrupted by protesters. "It must be guided by a simple but profound truth: We don't have to choose between economy or environment. We can and we must choose both." McCarthy mostly deflected specific questions about worries over President-elect Donald Trump, who has been a blistering critic of the EPA. Trump has vowed to scrap what he sees as onerous regulations the agency has put in place in recent years, from tighter methane controls on domestic drillers to the administration's signature effort to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants. He also has vowed to end the "war on coal," expand oil and gas leasing across federal lands and waters, and "cancel" U.S. participation in an international climate agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions. But McCarthy, a Boston native who became the EPA head in 2013 after a lengthy confirmation fight, repeatedly suggested that trying to slow the country's move away from coal and other fossil fuels and toward cleaner energy sources ultimately would be foolish and futile. "Science tells us that there is no bigger threat to American progress and prosperity than the threat of global climate change," she said. "And if you take nothing else from my speech today, take this: The train to a global,

clean-energy future has already left the station. We have a choice. We can choose to get on board, to lead. Or we can choose to be left behind.”

Trump has a plan for government workers. They're not going to like it President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are drawing up plans to take on the government bureaucracy they have long railed against, by eroding job protections and grinding down benefits that federal workers have received for a generation. Hiring freezes, an end to automatic raises, a green light to fire poor performers, a ban on union business on the government’s dime and less generous pensions — these are the contours of the blueprint emerging under Republican control of Washington in January. These changes were once unthinkable to federal employees, their unions and their supporters in Congress. But Trump’s election as an outsider promising to shake up a system he told voters is awash in “waste, fraud and abuse” has conservatives optimistic that they could do now what Republicans have been unable to do in the 133 years since the modern civil service was created. “You have the country moving to the right and being much more anti-Washington than it was,” said former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), a leading Trump adviser who serves on the president-elect’s transition team. “We’re going to have to get the country to understand how big the problem is, the human costs of it and why it’s absolutely essential to reform,” said Gingrich, who urged Trump to shrink big government and overhaul the “job-for-life” guarantee of federal work. Gingrich predicted that Stephen K. Bannon, a former Breitbart News chief who helped steer Trump’s campaign and is now one of his most influential advisers, would lead the effort. “It’s a big, big project,” he said. The project aligns with Bannon’s long-stated warnings about the corrupting influence of government and a capital city rampant with “crony capitalism.”

Column: Trump plans to fire feds faster What should federal employees expect from a boss-in-chief whose workforce philosophy is best known for two words — “You’re fired?” More firings. President-elect Donald Trump would start with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which remains a target for Republicans after a scandal that erupted in 2014 over the coverup of long wait times for patients. If firings do increase, don’t think they will stop at the VA: Two of Trump’s high-profile advisers have urged him to fire feds faster across the government. This is the second of two columns examining Trump’s approach to the workforce. Last week, we examined his plan to freeze federal hiring. Today, we look at his campaign’s firing proposals in light of measures that injure due process for civil servants while undermining the agency meant to protect them. Let’s begin with an acknowledgment that firing federal employees can be long and cumbersome because of civil service procedures. Let’s also acknowledge the importance of procedures protecting civil servants from being fired at will, like a contestant on a Trump reality show.

Things are getting weird in the polar regions’ As extraordinarily warm temperatures continue in the Arctic — temperatures tens of degrees Fahrenheit above normal for this time of year in some locations — Arctic sea ice, a key indicator of the overall state of this system, seems to be responding in kind. It is kind of unbelievable:

Want to do some good? You don't need a nonprofit, but these kids started two... Alyssa Mathew, 14, is trying to make a different kind of change. Two years ago, her interest in science led her to get involved in a gardening program at her school. But instead of growing apples or tomatoes, she’s growing oysters — and doing it to help the Chesapeake Bay. “One adult oyster can filter 50 gallons of water in a day,” she explained. That helps to keep the bay’s water clean. Oysters also provide shelter for fish and other animals. Alyssa and about 70 of her classmates at Dunloggin Middle School in Ellicott City, Maryland, are helping to bring back the bay’s oyster population, which in the past 200 years has been hurt by overharvesting, pollution and disease. Last month, under the watch of science teachers Dan Blue and Pam Kidwell, Alyssa and other students spent about three hours checking water conditions and counting baby oysters on Kent Island, where the oysters are growing in cages alongside a dock. She’ll return later this spring to check and clean the cages, and then to move more than 9,000 adult oysters to a protected area in the middle of the bay.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Beaver Valley land to be protected Woodlawn Trustee's 240-acre Beaver Valley site across state line, slated for 160-

homes, to be preserved as open space. An additional 240 acres adjoining the First State Heritage National Park, land that was in the final stages of approval for a 160-home development, will instead be preserved as open space under an agreement announced Monday between Woodlawn Trustees, two development companies and The Conservation Fund. The land, just across the state line in Pennsylvania, borders the 1,100-acre First State Heritage National Park Beaver Valley unit in Delaware. While the purchase price was not disclosed, the agreement gives The Conservation Fund time to raise an estimated \$8 million to finalize the deal. The nonprofit is working with Mt. Cuba Center and the Brandywine Conservancy to protect land in the Brandywine Valley. The development is on hold until the deal is finalized.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

New beaches coming for Rehoboth, Dewey The gift giving holidays are just around the corner, and Rehoboth and Dewey officials have received word they'll be getting their favorite gift of all – a new beach. During a preconstruction meeting Nov. 16, Rehoboth and Dewey officials were told by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives that beach replenishment should begin on Rehoboth's northern beach the last week of November or the first week of December. The beginning stages of the equipment needed for the work could be seen being moved into place Nov. 19 on Rehoboth's shore. Steve Rochette, corps spokesman, said Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company will be doing the dredging, working their way south toward Dewey with two of their dredges – the Dodge Island and Padre Island. Depending on weather, he said, beachfill operations are expected to last approximately one month. Rochette said several contract options were awarded, bringing the total cost to \$11.2 million. The corps will pay 65 percent of that cost. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will pay the remaining 35 percent. The base contract called for 424,000 cubic yards to be pumped, but Rochette said there will be 653,000 cubic yards pumped with the options added – 384,000 for Rehoboth and 269,000 in Dewey. He said the beach width will vary when the project is complete, but there will be about 200 feet at the widest point along northern Rehoboth. There were 13 possible options, and the corps and DNREC have picked up eight, including pedestrian, vehicle and handicap crossovers in Rehoboth, and two beachfill options totaling an additional 133,000 cubic yards in Dewey. Options not picked up include sand fencing in Rehoboth and Dewey, and dune grass in Rehoboth. Tony Pratt, administrator of DNREC's Shoreline and Waterways Management section, said a funding source for the sand fencing and dune grass hasn't been found, but the corps and DNREC are working together to find ones..

sussex Council approves Osprey Point Like so many side roads in coastal Sussex County, Old Landing Road near Rehoboth Beach is a highly sought-after address. Now, a golf course at the end of Old Landing Road, with roots dating back more than 50 years, will be developed into single-family housing. With one new stipulation, Sussex County Council voted 5-0 at its Nov. 15 meeting to approve a rezoning that paves the way for Osprey Point, a development of 217 single-family lots on 127 acres. On the advice of county attorney Everett Moore, council approval came with a condition the developer must provide a deed restriction that the maximum density of the project would be 217 single-family lots and any proposed change to the plan would require review by county council. Council unanimously approved a rezoning of the parcel from AR-1, agricultural-residential, to MR-RPC, medium-density, residential-planned community. On June 23, the planning and zoning commission unanimously recommended approval of the application...

Aramark, Compass Group produce policy to address chicken abuse on factory farms Following a groundbreaking campaign by The Humane League, foodservice giant Aramark announced that it will end its support for some of the worst abuses against chickens by 2024. Earlier today, Compass Group announced a similar commitment after noting the sustained public pressure on Aramark, its primary competitor, to produce a policy for the chickens in its supply chain. Aramark and Compass Group are the first major food corporations in history to announce progressive policies with a public timeline to address the extreme abuses in their chicken supply chain. The foodservice companies' new policies address several welfare concerns in its supply chain, most notably the selective-breeding of chickens, which causes the birds to grow grotesquely large in an alarmingly short amount of time and results in crippling injuries, immense suffering and sometimes death.

Delaware Farm Bureau announces staff changes Delaware Farm Bureau has hired a new, part-time staff member Carol Kinsley, who will serve as public relations coordinator and editor of the bimonthly Delaware Farm Bureau News. Having been a longtime employee of American Farm Publications, Kinsley is a familiar face at county and state farm bureau meetings and banquets, having covered them for The Delmarva Farmer newspaper for many years. Kinsley holds a degree in professional writing from the University of Maryland University College and has a small business Kinsley

Communications which offers writing, editing and book preparation services. Kinsley and her husband live in Seaford. They have two grown children and five grandchildren. Executive Director Pam Bakerian welcomed Kinsley and announced other recent changes in the support staff at the office in Camden: Laura Simpson is now foundation manager of Delaware Farm Bureau Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization created to build awareness, understanding and positive public perception about Delaware's farm operations...

DELAWARE PUBLIC MEDIA (NPR)

UD researcher wonders how ocean spray fuels tropical storms (Nov. 20) A University of Delaware professor says looking at droplets projected by ocean waves could help scientists understand the role they play in driving tropical storms. Scientists already use ocean waves to understand hurricanes and tropical storms. But UD's Fabrice Veron wonders what if understanding ocean spray could add to that knowledge. "One of the things that I would like to understand better is really the physical mechanisms by which the wind is tearing off those droplets from the surface of the water and really understand the physics of how those droplets then get transported into the air," Veron said. Ocean spray is the small and large droplets of foam formed when waves break. Veron said he would like to be able to estimate the number and the size of droplets generated at the surface of the ocean. That will allow researchers to give a more accurate estimate on how much heat is transferred between the water and atmosphere. Veron said he also wants to determine how much energy is used when droplets are transported through the air. "What happens is they leave the ocean with some properties, a certain temperature for example, and when they fall back into the ocean a few minutes or few seconds later, they may have cooled, may have evaporated some, may have accelerated some more," Veron said.

MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT

Where does Donald Trump stand on climate change? As a whole, Americans are more concerned about climate change right now than at any point in the past eight years. It leads many to wonder -- where do we go from here? At a time when sea levels are rising on our front porch in Florida, there might be no better time to ask. Over the weekend, President-elect Donald Trump visited with Chair of the House Republican Conference Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers to discuss the optimization of federal lands across the country, energy exploration and mining. That has led some to wonder how exactly he intends to tap into the energy resources underneath our feet, and whether or not the EPA will undergo a massive overhaul under a Trump Administration as he has promised. As a whole, Americans are more concerned about climate change right now than at any point in the past eight years. It leads many to wonder -- where do we go from here? At a time when sea levels are rising on our front porch in Florida, there might be no better time to ask.

DELAWARE STATE NEWS

Wastewater project flows into the future MILFORD — The Kent County Regional Resource Recovery Facility, or as it was know in the past, the Kent County Wastewater Treatment Facility, celebrated the completion of its 2-year, \$24 million nutrient removal and capacity expansion project on Friday. The most notable change brought to the Milford facility by the project is that it's capacity has been increased from 16 million gallons per day to 20 million gallons per day. "The project is the culmination of several years of planning and design," said Andrew Jakubowitch, director of Kent County Public Works. "We currently receive a flow of 12 and a half million gallons per day, but now we can handle 20 million. The upgrades provide additional capacity so if larger businesses move to our county, they'll have more available capacity for all the wastewater flows from their businesses." The wastewater facility already contends with large commercial operations such as local colleges and Purdue Farms, which produces at least 1 million gallons per day on its own. In addition to increased capacity, the project added effluent building modifications to bypass and upgrade the bar rake system to move large debris, Mr. Jakubowitch said. "We also added two new secondary clarifiers for a total of six for the capacity expansion," he said. "To increase the quality of water leaving the site, we added a sand filter building. This is used for additional nitrogen removal of wastewater and it reduces turbidity to the receiving stream. We expanded the UV disinfection system too." Funding for the project was provided by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, USDA and county funds.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

Hearing today on Kanawha Valley water plant Kanawha Valley residents get a chance later today to speak up about West Virginia American Water's proposed plan for protecting their drinking water. The state Bureau for Public Health is holding a public hearing from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on West Virginia American's proposed "source water protection plan" for the company's Kanawha Valley Treatment Plant. The hearing will be held at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, 2001 Union Carbide Drive, Building 2000 (Hendrickson Conference Center), Room 1220, in South Charleston. The water company was required to write the plan as part of the state legislation passed in the wake of the January 2014 water crisis that followed the Freedom Industries chemical spill on the Elk River. The bureau, part of the state Department of Health and Human Resources, is required to review the company's proposed plan and accept public comments on it. The plan is available online at: <http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/water-quality-and-stewardship/source-water-protection/page26237.html>. Public comments on the plan can also be submitted in writing by U.S. mail to the bureau at 350 Capitol St., Room 313, Charleston, WV 25301, attention: Source Water Protection Program; by fax to 304-558-4322; or emailed to EEDSourceWaterProtection@wv.gov with "Protection Plan Comments" in the subject line. This is the second public hearing on West Virginia American's proposed plan. State officials scheduled it after they mistakenly did not send out a press release announcing an earlier hearing that was held in early October.

Blog: Obama picks former industry official from CSB post I haven't seen much mention of it in the media so far, but there was a move by President Obama on Friday to fill the last open spot on the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. Here's the press release from the White House: *Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key Administration posts: — Rachel A. Meidl – Member, Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.* Ms. Meidl is currently listed as the deputy associate administrator for policy and programs at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA. That connection is interesting, of course, because the CSB's current chair, also an Obama pick, Vanessa Allen Sutherland, was previously at PHMSA as its chief counsel. Well, there's also the fact that PHMSA is not necessarily known for doing such a great job, and the Obama administration isn't thought of by agency critics as having really improved the situation there.

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

DHHR Continues Source Water Protection Plan Hearings Since July 1, the state Bureau for Public Health has been holding public hearings across West Virginia to discuss proposed Source Water Protection Plans. The plans are the result of legislation approved after a 2014 chemical spill in Charleston left hundreds of thousands of people without usable drinking water for days. Monday evening was the second time citizens in the Kanawha Valley—those who were directly impacted by the spill—were able to comment on their local plan. The public hearing in South Charleston focused on West Virginia American Water's proposal submitted this summer. The company is one of 125 utilities required to submit the proposals, and Scott Rodeheaver, Assistant Manager for the Source Water Protection Program at DHHR, says public hearings are being held to discuss each one. "It varies from place to place what the exact issues are," Rodeheaver said, "but I think the people that come are concerned about the long term quality of the water supply in their area." Only six people attended Monday's hearing, including Phil Price. He's a semi-retired analytical chemist who works with the Charleston-based group Advocates for a Safe Water System. Price claims West Virginia American Water's plans are not adequate. "Many, many, many, many of the hazards upstream from our intake are excluded from the plan," Price explained. He points to Yeager Airport as one of those hazards. But Laura Martin, the company's External Affairs Manager, says her utility is prepared. "What is outlined in state law is a zone of critical concern and then a zone of peripheral concern, and if we feel that there are entities or aboveground storage tanks or other facilities located outside of those, we have included them in our plan," Martin said.

What Data Says About Trump Support in Appalachia On West Virginia Morning, Jeff Young of the Ohio Valley ReSource looks at what motivated voters to select Donald Trump as president and a report about what's it's like to be released from jail. That's on West Virginia Morning from West Virginia Public Broadcasting – telling West Virginia's story.

WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS

DHHR holds public hearing for WVAVC's Kanawha Valley Source Water Protection Plan **CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — A spokesperson for West Virginia American Water Company says the best way to make sure drinking water stays free from contaminants is to make sure that they don't reach the river, much like what happened during the 2014 Freedom Industries chemical spill. "Ultimately, still the best way to protect the public is to make sure that these types of things do not enter the water in the first place," said Laura Martin, external affairs manager for WVAVC. The state Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Public Health held a public hearing Monday night to discuss the draft Source Water Protection Plan for the water company's Kanawha Valley System. The meeting was held at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park in South Charleston near BridgeValley Community & Technical College. It was the second public hearing on the water company's proposed plan after state officials mistakenly forgot to announce the previous hearing scheduled in early October. Under law, West Virginia public water systems are required to develop a plan, with public input, to educate and offer site-specific technical assistance to residents. This comes after the leak of MCHM into the Elk River in Charleston, leading to a water emergency for nearly 300,000 residents in parts of nine West Virginia counties. Martin said the plans include options for alternative water sources, management and communication plans and evaluations of having a back up or secondary water source in case an emergency does happen...

MARTINSBURG JOURNAL

Knipe: Big Springs plant has made a lot of progress **MARTINSBURG** — Big Springs Water Filtration Plant has made a lot of progress since May, according to Steve Knipe, Berkeley County sewer director. The Big Springs water plant was shut down in May after the Environmental Protection Agency lowered the national limits of certain chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS. PFOA and PFOS, manmade chemicals found in products like firefighting foam, were present in the water source the Big Springs plant drew from when the EPA lowered the national standards. The plant was temporarily shut down while the plant thought of solutions. Knipe said the Big Springs plant is still doing research on the best way to remove PFOA and PFOS from the bigger, more productive water supply. For now, however, it's drawing from an original source of supply— a natural spring near the plant. "The spring has a much smaller source of supply than the source we had been using," Knipe said. "However, it allows us to still use the plant and supply Martinsburg residents with water while we continue looking at treatment options." Knipe said the plant is going to need another type of filtration system to remove the PFOA and PFOS chemicals from the water source. "It's going to take some sort of granular activated carbon filter to get the chemicals out of the water," Knipe said. "It's similar to the kind of filter that a lot of people use on their faucets at home." Although the Big Springs plant was affected by the lowered EPA limits, Knipe reported that no other water sources were impacted in the area. Furthermore, the Big Springs facility was compliant with all other aspects of the EPA's new limits. The only troublesome numbers at the Big Springs plant were the manmade PFOA and PFOS chemicals, which had found their way into the Big Springs water source.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

Trump's vow to revive coal country is met with measured hope **WILLIAMSON, W.Va.** (AP) - The hard-eyed view along the Tug Fork River in West Virginia coal country is that President-elect Donald Trump has something to prove: that he'll help bring back Appalachian mining, as he promised time and again on the campaign trail. Nobody thinks he can revive it entirely - not economists, not ex-miners, not even those recently called back to work. But for the first time in years, coal towns are seeing a commodity that had grown scarcer than the coal trains that used to rumble through around the clock: hope. Around here that hope is measured. Still, most voters saw Trump as the only choice for president. He vowed to undo looming federal rules and said President Barack Obama had been "ridiculous" to the industry. Trump told miners in Charleston: "We're going to take care of years of horrible abuse. I guarantee it." West Virginians went all in, backing Trump and electing a coal mine-owning billionaire, Democrat Jim Justice, as governor. But a lot of people had gone under already. "Lost my home, vehicle, everything," said Roger Prater. Wearing the miner's telltale blue pants with reflective strips on the legs, Prater would be heading underground that night. He'd been laid off for 20 months but now benefits from a small hiring surge that started before the election.

\$1.4M for Flood Recovery of West Virginia Small Businesses The West Virginia Department of Commerce says more than \$1.4 million has been awarded to small businesses in 11 counties in the state's long-term recovery initiative following

last June's flooding. According to the department, more than 100 applications were submitted shortly after the program was announced to help businesses stay open. Funding includes more than \$700,000 in Greenbrier County, \$200,000 in Nicholas County and \$150,000 in and Kanawha County. Money also has been designated for businesses in Clay, Fayette, Jackson, Lincoln, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers and Webster counties. Mini-grant applications are being accepted through Wednesday.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Md. seeks to increase air monitoring near Wagner power plant after residents express concerns Responding to residents worried that the air near their homes isn't safe to breathe, Maryland environment officials say they hope to install an air-quality monitor near a coal power plant in Anne Arundel County. The Maryland Department of the Environment is exploring whether the federal government or the owner of the H.A.Wagner Generating Station can pay for the equipment, the agency's secretary wrote Monday in a letter to the Greater Pasadena Council. Some Pasadena residents became alarmed last summer when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said conditions around the plant over the past three years did not meet a federal standard for sulfur dioxide pollution. The EPA required the state and plant owner to collaborate on a plan to clean the emissions. Gov. Larry Hogan's administration had challenged the finding, saying the state's models suggest the air is meeting federal pollution standards... Grumbles wrote that the state is focused on working with the plant to ensure it's in compliance, but added that installing a monitor to gather more precise data is worthwhile. The Department recognizes the fact that residents of Pasadena and elsewhere would want an absolute assurance that air quality is not harmful to their health," he wrote. He said the state is working with the EPA to determine if some of the several million dollars in federal money allocated to local air quality research could go toward the Wagner monitoring equipment, or if other federal money is available... EPA officials already advised the Pasadena group it was up to the state whether to install a monitor. "We supply [states] funding every year that they can use specifically for monitoring," EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said. "It's up to them to decide where they want to do that monitoring."

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

New VA plant promises cleaner way to make paper Questions remain about impact of Chinese firm's nutrient discharge on James River. Construction is under way on a Chinese company's \$2 billion manufacturing plant on the James River in Virginia's Chesterfield County. Though state officials recruited what the governor called "the largest greenfield project ever done in the United States," environmental advocates remain wary that the massive plant can proceed without degrading the Chesapeake Bay tributary. Once constructed, Shandong Tranlin Paper Co., which is doing business in the United States under the name Vastly, said the 850-acre facility will employ about 2,000 people by 2020. But the plant — and those jobs — won't be coming for many months or possibly years, as company executives waded through a prolonged process to collect the 20-plus permits necessary to operate the sprawling facility. The Chinese business has more than 200 patents on its complex process to turn wheat straw from local farms into pulp for paper products and soil amendments that are sold back to farmers — all under the premise that its manufacturing is cleaner than what's typically used to make paper from trees.

National parks The National Park Service is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. There are almost 100 NPS sites in the Chesapeake watershed, ranging from national parks and trails to historic sites and farms to military parks and memorials. Activities at them are equally diverse. Here is a list of scrambled words describing recreational activities for visitors. (Not all activities are offered at all sites.) Answers are below.

Festival del Rio Anacostia Guate Marimba plays during a traditional dance by Despertar Maya Ma'am during the Festival del Rio Anacostia. On October 15th, alongside a mud-banked river usually empty of life, little children skip among brightly tented booths, carrying fishing lines and nature-inspired passport books. Community members watch water run clear through a root-planting demonstration or try to spot American eels in a cloudy-water tank teeming with fish. In the air, marimba music and the tantalizing smells of Latin fare mingle with the musical murmur of combined Spanish and

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM BLOG

In wake of flooding, Ellicott City works to recover and adapt The sound of a phone echoes through three empty floors of a restaurant under construction. Michel Tersiguel's steps crinkle plastic sheeting on the ground as he walks past stacked tables and empty shelves to the phone hanging on the wall of the entry hallway. His face lights up, "Our phones are working! That's the first time I've heard it ring." For the first time since floods on July 30, 2016, pummeled historic Ellicott City, Maryland and forced his business, Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant, to close for repairs nearly two months ago, he picks up the phone to say, "Bonjour, Tersiguel's, may I help you?"

MY EASTERN SHORE MD

Consumers will shape the future of the Bay CHESTERTOWN — Regarding the question of whether the Chesapeake Bay's health will improve or decline, it all comes back to the choices of the consumer. A panel of experts gathered at Washington College Nov. 17 to continue the discussion of "Can food production and a clean Chesapeake coexist?" Hosted by the Chester River Association, Washington College's Center for Environment & Society and the Sassafras River Association, the panel was the second in a series of discussions on the health of the Bay. It had a more focused topic of discussion titled, "How consumer demand is shaping the future of agriculture and water quality." The first panel was held in February and focused more on the health of rivers and streams in relation to the Bay. The Nov. 17 panel saw six experts, farmers and scientist gather to discuss the Bay's health and focused on organic farming, buying local and soil maintenance during the two-hour discussion held in the Gibson Center for the Arts. Kim Coble, of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a previous panel member, moderated the event and opened the discussion with a few basic facts about the Bay. The watershed is 64 thousand square miles, spread across six states and Washington, D.C. and is home to 17 million people, she said. "The Bay has the largest land to water ratio of anywhere in the world," Coble said. "What happens on the land has a direct impact on the water quality. This is why the Bay is so vulnerable." Coble then opened the discussion to the experts by asking where farming on the Delmarva Peninsula will be in the next 20 or 30 years. Overall, the answer was positive, but that positivity is dependent on a few factors.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Editorial - How will Trump's election affect Virginia? Virginians don't yet know precisely how the election of Donald Trump will affect the commonwealth. But the president-elect will set a markedly different course from that of the Obama administration, and its broad strokes are clear enough to give at least a rough idea... **ENVIRONMENT.** Trump's dismissal of climate-change concerns, his professed hostility to regulation, and his promises about restoring the coal industry could produce marked shifts in the state. Rolling back the Clean Power Plan could give coal-fired electricity generation a temporary reprieve from extinction, but it will not reduce the threat to coal from the growth of natural gas — growth Trump has indicated he would like to accelerate. The new administration's stance on energy is likely to improve the regulatory landscape for projects such as the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and reduce federal support for green-energy projects such as wind and solar farms. Washington also is less likely to put much effort into compacts aimed at preventing overfishing or improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, or hardening coastal areas against sea-level rise. That could produce short-term benefits for some constituencies, such as farmers and watermen; it could make certain problems even harder to solve in the long run. It's an ill wind that blows no man any good, as the maxim has it, and a Trump administration will redound to the benefit of some Virginians in numerous ways — just as it will redound to the detriment of others. The state's political leaders should do what they can to keep as many checkmarks in the plus column as they can, without descending into an excess of parochialism at the expense of national well-being. Changes in defense spending, for instance, should be made to improve national security, not to boost employment numbers in a given region. The nation needs a healthy Virginia — and vice versa.

Buckingham planners act on proposed pipeline compressor station BUCKINGHAM — Buckingham County planners have endorsed a zoning permit for a natural gas compressor station to serve the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline as it slices

through the heart of Virginia. The Planning Commission vote on Monday night to recommend approval of a special-use permit for the station will move the intensifying public battle over the project to the Board of Supervisors to settle. The vote was 7-0 with one abstention. Supervisor Representative Danny R. Allen abstained because he is a Dominion employee. Aaron Ruby, a spokesman for the pipeline company, commended the commission on its vote. "We appreciate the thoughtful, deliberative way the commission went about its work," Ruby said. The recommendation includes 40 conditions on the proposed permit. "It's very important to send these forward and let your elected officials make the decision," Commissioner Chet W. Maxey said before the vote. Opponents chanted as people left the meeting room, "People gonna rise like the water, gonna shut this pipeline down!" The vote came less than a week after the announcement of an agreement in principle to allow Kyanite Mining Corp., the largest private employer in Buckingham, to receive natural gas from the proposed pipeline through a tap by Columbia Gas of Virginia. Opponents questioned whether the announcement of the pending deal was timed to influence the commission's recommendation on the compressor station permit, but the Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC, led by Richmond-based Dominion, insisted that it was not. "What we're feeling is it gives the appearance of interference in the political process," said Lakshmi Fjord, on behalf of Friends of Buckingham.

Post-election, strong state leadership on the environment is critical Donald Trump is headed to the White House. And according to his "First 100 Days" plan, environmentalists' greatest fear during this election is about to come true: Our nation's bedrock environmental protections are now under attack. The president-elect is a climate denier, and he has placed executives of big oil companies and other climate deniers on his transition team. One of these people is Virginia's own Becky Norton Dunlop, former secretary of natural resources under Gov. George Allen, who not only had to resign from the Reagan administration for replacing career staff with political appointees, but was also rebuffed in her efforts to turn state parks and state environmental protections over to private companies. Since her days wreaking havoc on Virginia's environment, Dunlop has spent most of that time working for the inside-the-beltway conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation. Another transition team member, Mike McKenna, a current energy industry lobbyist and former director of external affairs at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, is infamous for helping lead DEQ when it was accused in a bipartisan legislative report of "coddling industrial polluters and neglecting to enforce water-quality laws," according to The Washington Post.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

Editorial: Trump's plans have green advocates seeing red (Nov. 21) THE WORRY is palpable in America's environmental community. It's evident across sectors where federal regulation has made a meaningful difference in clean water and air and, by extension, in the United States' leadership on global warming and sea level rise. Much of it surrounds President-elect Donald Trump's selection of Myron Ebell, a climate change skeptic, as the head of his transition team on environmental policy. Ebell is the director of the conservative Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center on Energy and the Environment. According to CEI's website, Ebell also "chairs the Cooler Heads Coalition, which comprises over two dozen nonprofit groups in this country and abroad that question global warming alarmism and oppose energy rationing policies." That puts Ebell and his coalition well at odds with the scientific and international consensus on climate change, which represents one of the most significant long-term threats to Hampton Roads. According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, done in 2013, places like Hampton Roads are on course to see more than a 3-foot rise in sea levels by 2100. Recent research on ice sheets, sea-level trajectory and ocean dynamics have suggested the increase could be double that, with obviously devastating consequences. Much of the current sea level rise is thanks to warmer global temperatures caused by the release of greenhouse gases from burning coal and gas, and from massive deforestation in South America and Africa. Almost all climate scientists agree both on the mechanism for a warming planet and its general trajectory... Since so much of the progress on the environment in the past decade was won in the courts — rather than in the White House or in Congress — Trump's ability to reverse them may be further hindered by the separation of powers. But an informed and active citizenry, not simply the willingness of environmental groups to watch every move carefully, will be critical in the fight against environmental reversal, whether in the courts or elsewhere.

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

Climate scientists, Chesapeake Bay experts look to future with Trump presidency (Nov. 20) Drowned neighborhoods, meaner hurricanes, shifting shorelines, the Atlantic lapping at the front door — Hampton Roads knows more than most

what climate change bodes for coastal communities. Now local scientists who study the changing climate and its long-term impacts on the Chesapeake Bay region say they're worried about what a Donald Trump administration might bode for the area — and the Earth — as well. Trump has tweeted that climate change is a "hoax" perpetrated by the Chinese, and vowed to pull the U.S. out of last year's landmark Paris Agreement in which 190 countries agreed to cut carbon emissions and to abandon President Barack Obama's domestic Clean Power Plan. He also pledged to power up the country's fossil fuel industries, which scientists fear could trigger even greater greenhouse gas emissions and jeopardize any chance of keeping global warming below what climate models show is a tipping point toward catastrophe. Randy Chambers, head of the Keck Environmental Lab at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, has seen environmental protections ebb and flow from one administration to the next for decades. "It's a shame that things that are scientifically important — and ought to be important to society as well — shift so dramatically with these political elections." John Fredericks, conservative talk radio show host and chairman of Trump's campaign in Virginia, believes Trump's energy ambitions won't come at the expense of the environment. "If you look at climate change right now, there's no question that everybody has to have environmental concerns," Fredericks said. "There's only one Earth."

MISCELLANEOUS

THE EPA BLOG

Advancing Public Health Protections In Our Case Against Volkswagen For years, Volkswagen's "clean diesel" marketing campaign was geared toward environmentally-conscious consumers eager to help reduce pollution. We now know that Volkswagen duped these consumers, and that in fact its cars emit up to 40 times the legal limit of NOx pollution. But after steadfast work by colleagues across the federal government and the State of California, this distortion to the market for truly green cars in the U.S. is finally going to be remedied. Last month, a federal judge in California approved a groundbreaking settlement that covers nearly 500,000 model year 2009-2015 2.0 liter diesel vehicles. This partial settlement holds Volkswagen accountable for its illegal actions, and puts in place remedies for the harm it caused to our air. In addition to requiring Volkswagen to offer to buy back the violating cars to stop the ongoing pollution, the settlement requires Volkswagen to mitigate the illegal emissions, and to make zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) investments that will have a lasting impact on public health and clean transportation in America.

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

States Take Varied Approaches to Emissions Rule States are planning very different responses to a 2015 EPA rule requiring revisions to their emissions mitigation plans, with some opting for a path that will likely draw litigation from environmental advocates. The EPA gave 36 states until Nov. 22 to submit a revised state implementation plan for addressing excess emissions during periods of startup, shutdown and malfunction. In advance of that deadline, Bloomberg BNA surveys state environmental agencies on their planned responses to the rule.

Methane Limits, Fracking Study Addressed by EPA Head EPA Administrator McCarthy says she looks forward to updating the incoming administration on the EPA's progress. "I'm looking forward to a smooth transition so they can see the breadth of the work the agency and how well we've done our jobs," she says following a speech at the National Press Club. So far the EPA has not been contacted by the transition team of President-elect Trump, she says.

FDA Ban on Perfluorinated Chemicals in Packaging Extended The FDA is extending a ban on the use of perfluorinated degreasing chemicals in food packaging, completing a partial ban on the chemicals it enacted earlier this year. The administration's action means food companies are now prohibited from using any perfluorinated chemical in their packaging. PFCs were used in pizza boxes, takeout containers and fast-food wrappers to prevent grease from leaking through.

GREENWIRE

DAKOTA ACCESS: CEO shuns reroute plan as protests turn violent The head of Energy Transfer Partners LP, the company building the Dakota Access oil pipeline, said Friday that it likely will not be rerouted but that he hoped to meet

with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe chairman to ease his concerns over construction. CEO Kelcy Warren said the company does not have alternatives to the \$3.8 billion pipeline plan, which has drawn outrage from the Standing Rock Sioux. "There's not another way. We're building at that location," Warren said. Warren wants to meet with Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault to address the tribe's concerns that the pipeline could contaminate drinking water and damage cultural sites. Archambault said he's willing to meet with Warren but does not expect it to make a difference. "We already know what he's going to say — that this is the cleanest, safest pipeline ever," the chairman said. "What he doesn't know is that this is still an issue for Standing Rock and all indigenous people" ([*AP/San Francisco Chronicle*](#), Nov. 18). Last night, over 400 protesters at the tribe's reservation in North Dakota clashed with police as they tried to enter what they called sacred lands, which are under the control of the Army Corps of Engineers. Police stopped the protesters from entering the lands as requested by the corps. Police used tear gas and a water cannon on the protesters as temperatures dipped into the 20s. The Morton County Sheriff's Department called the situation a riot and said protesters tried to set multiple fires to the Backwater Bridge (Nigel Duara, [*Los Angeles Times*](#), Nov. 20)

BIOTECH: Court strikes down municipal GMO bans A federal judge on Friday barred three Hawaiian counties from banning or regulating pesticides and genetically modified crops in a blow to consumer health advocates and a victory for agriculture corporations that fought the local laws. Circuit Judge Consuelo Callahan upheld a lower court's ruling that Hawaii state law prevents municipal agricultural regulation. In 2014, Maui residents voted to prohibit the growing and testing of genetically modified crops on local land. Kauai County has also passed pesticide notification rules and requires pesticide buffer zones, while Hawaii island has barred open-air testing of genetically modified organisms. But state agriculture laws pre-empt the local measures, the court held. "This is good news for local agriculture in Hawaii, as it clears up potential confusion over who has jurisdiction in regulating agricultural operations, leaving that responsibility with the appropriate government agencies," said Bennette Misalucha, executive director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. The trade group claims among its members Dow AgroSciences LLC, DuPont Pioneer, Monsanto Co. and Syngenta AG, all of which battled the local measures. The Center for Food Safety slammed the court ruling. "We will continue to stand and fight with the people of Hawaii against these chemical companies, and part of that is going to be demanding action at the state level to protect the people and the environment," said George Kimbrell, senior attorney for the nonprofit. "We're considering all legal options, including appeal."

ENERGY POLICY: Senate weighs response to House offer Senate energy reform bill conferees are reviewing a Friday counteroffer from House negotiators, as efforts to break a decadelong stalemate on major energy legislation come down to the wire. The House proposal "reflects policies that represent the current bipartisan consensus in the House," said House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) in a joint statement Friday evening. "We welcome any suggestions from the Senate and remain open to continuing to work with our Senate colleagues and concluding this conference in a productive manner," said the pair. The proposal comes after Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) told reporters last week that the House had signaled a desire to pare back the scope of the conference talks. Among the items in doubt were provisions to address natural gas exports, efficiency, innovation, critical minerals, pipeline permitting, hydropower and a sportsmen's package ([*E&E Daily*](#), Nov. 18). House and Senate aides declined to comment on the contents of the new language, but it has the support of Energy and Commerce ranking member Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), said a panel Democratic aide, who described it as a "unified bipartisan counteroffer." Democratic support suggests the House has followed through on expectations to scale back the scope of the conference push given that Pallone has never been particularly enthusiastic about the House bill.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030 TORONTO — Canada announced Monday it plans phase out the use of coal-fired electricity by 2030. The move is in stark contrast to President-elect Donald Trump's vow to revive the American coal industry. Environment Minister Kathleen McKenna said the goal is to make sure 90 percent of Canada's electricity comes from sustainable sources by that time — up from 80 percent today. The announcement is one of a series of measures Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government is rolling out as part of a broader climate change plan. Mr. Trudeau also has plans to implement a carbon tax. Mr. Trump, in contrast, has also said he would "cancel" the Paris Agreement. Mr. Trudeau told President Barack Obama this past weekend he would miss working with him because he shared so many values. France, Britain, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark have all announced accelerated coal phase outs, Ms. McKenna said. "Taking traditional coal power out of our energy mix and replacing it with cleaner

technologies will significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, improve the health of Canadians, and benefit generations for years to come," Ms. McKenna said. Four of Canada's 10 provinces still use coal-based electricity. Alberta had been working toward phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2030.

Sunoco Logistics Buys Company At Center Of Dakota Pipeline Issues NEW YORK (AP) - Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. is buying rival Energy Transfer Partners in a stock deal worth about \$20 billion that the energy companies' hope will boost their operations. But shares for both companies fell in afternoon trading. The deal comes as Energy Transfer Partners remains at the center of controversy over the Dakota Access oil pipeline that will transfer oil from North Dakota to Illinois. Construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline has been the object of protests for months by the Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation lies near the pipeline route, and the tribe's allies, who fear a leak could contaminate their drinking water. Energy Transfer shareholders will receive 1.5 common units of Sunoco stock for each Energy transfer share they own. Based on Sunoco's closing price Friday, the deal was worth about \$21.31 billion...

NPR

Police, Protesters Clash Near Dakota Access Pipeline Route Police and demonstrators opposed to the Dakota Access Pipeline clashed overnight on a bridge that has been a flashpoint in the ongoing protests. "Police say protesters set fires in the area Sunday night and threw rocks at officers," Prairie Public Broadcasting's Amy Sisk reported. But an activist said in a live-stream video that projectiles fired from the police side started the fires and that demonstrators, who call themselves water protectors, were trying to extinguish the flames. "Police used tear gas and sprayed water to control the crowd while the temperature dropped below freezing," Sisk said. "Protest leaders are concerned about hypothermia and injuries sustained by demonstrators." The number of people injured ranged from dozens to hundreds, according to varying reports from activist and anti-pipeline groups. At least one person was arrested, Sisk said. The skirmishes began Sunday evening when hundreds of demonstrators gathered and attempted to move a burned-out car that had been blocking Backwater Bridge, which is about a mile from the pipeline construction area, since another confrontation there several weeks ago. "Authorities have said the bridge is closed due to concerns about its structural integrity since the vehicle fires in October," according to The Bismarck Tribune. Demonstrators say the bridge is the primary access to their camp. A statement from anti-pipeline groups said demonstrators were attempting to clear the road to "improve access to the camp for emergency services." Dallas Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network said the groups are concerned that "ambulances now have an extra 30 minutes to get to the hospital."

HUFFINGTON POST

Donald Trump + EPA = A Potential Natural Disaster For The Environment A general who doesn't believe in North Korea's threat. A Federal Reserve chairman who doesn't believe in recessions. A surgeon general who doesn't believe in germs. Those are almost as bad as an Environmental Protection Agency transition head who doesn't believe in science. Meet Myron Ebell. In the midst of a tumultuous start to Donald Trump's presidential administration, you may have missed the stories about him. Let me recap. Ebell is a renowned climate denier, lobbyist, long-time D.C. talking head and, sadly, a supporter of many polluting energy companies. He's also heading up Trump's Environmental Protection Agency transition team. That's right. President-elect Trump chose a science skeptic and ally to companies with long histories of pollution to start his EPA. The Environmental Protection Agency plays a vital role in protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate on which we rely. Ebell, however, denies the science of climate change. He opposes policies to protect clean air and water. He has a history of supporting policies that protect polluter profits over public health. In fact, he directs the Center for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which received donations from polluters like Exxon and Murray Energy.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Outgoing EPA Chief 'Very Hopeful' for Agency's Mission Under Trump The outgoing head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Monday that she is "very hopeful" that the Trump administration will continue the agency's work of cleaning up air and water pollution. "We've been very successful in the last five decades avoiding partisan politics," EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said during an appearance at the National Press Club in Washington that was webcast. "It really doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat: You still want your kids to be healthy and sound." Ms. McCarthy lauded Barack Obama and his administration for key pollution and climate policies, such as the Clean Power Plan, an initiative that aims for a 32% reduction in power-plant carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. The plan is

on hold pending a federal court challenge by some coal companies and states. “History will show that the Clean Power Plan marked a turning point in American climate leadership,” she said, adding that the coming political change in Washington has countries around the world “wondering if the U.S. will turn its back on science and be left behind.”

BREITBART NEWS

Ten Ways to Fix EPA and Jump-Start the Economy President-elect Donald Trump has an unprecedented opportunity to get the economy moving again while protecting the environment in a reasonable and practical manner. While Republicans have been in charge of the White House and Congress before, there are three major differences between now and then. First, President-elect Trump campaigned on a platform of rolling back unnecessarily burdensome and economically harmful climate and EPA regulations. Second, since EPA was formed in 1970, we have gained an awful lot of scientific knowledge about the environment and public health. We have an excellent understanding the health risks that “pollutants” and chemicals in the environment do and do not pose. Third, we have made great strides in environmental protection since 1970. Our air is clean and safe. Our water (with the limited exception of spots like Flint, Michigan) is clean and safe. So the task ahead then is to keep the environment clean and safe and to make improvements where it makes sense — versus spending inordinate sums senselessly returning the environment to Garden of Eden status. Here are 10 things President Trump could do help jump-start the economy while keeping our environment clean and safe...**Water.** EPA and environmentalists have long abused the Clean Water Act in an effort to stop economic development. While the Clean Water Act provides EPA with jurisdiction over “navigable waters,” EPA has arbitrarily extended this jurisdiction even to cover drainage ditches that are dry most of the time. The Obama administration issued the so-called “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule and other usurpation of state authority to formalize even greater EPA power over land use. WOTUS and efforts like the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load program should be rolled back and, ideally, prevented from happening again by Congress. Land use is almost entirely a state issue and states should be allowed to determine what is best for them.